

To: Focus Group
From: Bob Tennenbaum
Date: 7/8/06
Re: Downtown Planning

What we citizens have accomplished since September 2004:

1. Stopped the second ill-conceived Rouse Company development proposal on the Crescent site.
2. Saved Meriwether Music Pavilion.
3. Encouraged General Growth Properties to undertake a first ever "Draft Master Plan for Columbia Town Center" with open "Town Hall Meeting" participation.
4. Promoted the first County sponsored open community planning process ever for Downtown.
 - Resulting in custom made zoning for Downtown.
 - Resulting in an entirely new development plan review and approval process with plan and design up-front.
 - Resulting in Town Center design review and a professional Design Advisory Panel.
 - Resulting in open access too and dialog with GGP and other developers, a total reversal of the past.
 - Resulting in open dialog and access to a highly professional and responsive Department of Planning & Zoning staff.
 - Resulting in an open forum for social and cultural ideas and proposals.

Still to do:

1. Decide on a truly balanced development program for downtown.
2. Refine details of the DPZ "Columbia Downtown Master Plan"
3. Refine details of the proposed zoning process.
4. Refine details of the Design Guidelines.
5. Form a cultural and social planning focus group.

In 2007:

If you are satisfied with *most* of the final product and as *individual citizens*, lobby the next County Executive and next County Council to approve the "Columbia Downtown Master Plan" and all that is needed to implement it.

Jim Rouse would be proud!